

Message Text

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TAGS: ECON, EAGR, PINT, CH

SUBJ: KWANGTUNG CALLS FOR HOLDING A PEASANT CONGRESS

REF: A. HK A-190; B. HK 10806; C. HK 10828

SUMMARY: KWANGTUNG HAS ISSUED A DIRECTIVE CALLING FOR HOLDING THE SECOND KWANGTUNG POOR AND LOWER-MIDDLE PEASANT CONGRESS. THE TIMING OF THE CONGRESS (IT WAS ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY) PROBABLY SIGNALS THAT REORGANIZATION OF KWANGTUNG'S PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS IS LARGELY COMPLETE AND MAY SIGNIFY A NEW AND ENHANCED ROLE FOR THE PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS IN THE RURAL ECONOMY. END SUMMARY

1. KWANGTUNG'S PROVINCIAL CCP COMMITTEE HAS ISSUED A DIRECTIVE CALLING FOR THE CONVENING OF THE SECOND KWANGTUNG POOR AND LOWER-MIDDLE PEASANT (PLMP) CONGRESS. THE DIRECTIVE, REPORTED IN A PROVINCIAL BROADCAST OCTOBER 25, COMES EIGHT MONTHS AFTER THE ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN FEBRUARY TO HOLD SUCH A CONFERENCE. NO DATE FOR BEGINNING THE CONGRESS WAS ANNOUNCED THOUGH THE LANGUAGE IMPLIED THAT IT IS MEETING NOW. IT WILL BE ONLY THE THIRD SUCH PROVINCE-LEVEL PLMP CONGRESS HELD IN THE PRC THIS YEAR AND THE SEVENTH SINCE THE 1973 NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL CALLING FOR RESTABLISHING MASS ORGANIZATIONS (REF A).

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2. AMONG THE TASKS OF THE CONGRESS WILL BE THE STUDY OF "RELEVANT INSTRUCTIONS" OF THE PARTY CENTER POSSIBLY IMPLYING THAT ONE OR MORE CENTRAL DIRECTIVES HAVE BEEN ISSUED RELATING TO A PERHAPS ENHANCED ROLE FOR PLMP ORGANIZATIONS IN THE RURAL ECONOMY (CANTON CITY SERVICE OCTOBER 25). OTHER RECENT PROVINCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS HAVE ALSO EXTOLLED THEIR ROLE.

3. A RECENT BROADCAST FROM KWANGTUNG SAYS THAT AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON THE PARTY'S BASIC LINE BEGAN IN KEY COMMUNES AND BRIGADES IN AUGUST 1973. IN ADDITION TO EDUCATION AND IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING OF CADRE, IT HAD THE APPARENT AIM OF REORGANIZING AND REVITALIZING MASS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, IN PARTICULAR FOCUSING ON RURAL PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS. PEASANT APATHY--AND PERHAPS RESISTANCE--COULD WELL HAVE SLOWED DOWN THE CAMPAIGN AND THAT, IN TURN, MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE DELAY IN HOLDING THE CONGRESS. ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS APPARENTLY TO ESTABLISH THE "SUPERIORITY" OF THE PLMP ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. OTHER MASS ORGANIZATIONS--THE CYL, MILITIA, AND WOMEN'S FEDERATIONS--WERE ALSO "RECTIFIED," BUT IT IS THE PEASANT ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE CLEARLY SET FORTH AS BEING THE MAIN FORCE IN RURAL AREAS.

4. AFTER RECTIFYING SELECTED LEADERSHIP GROUPS--IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN PLMP ASSOCIATIONS--THE CAMPAIGN NEXT DIRECTED ITSELF AGAINST THE MAIN TARGET, DESCRIBED IN THE BROADCAST AS THE "LIN PIAO ANTI-PARTY CLIQUE" WHO WERE "CONDUCTING ACTIVITIES TO RESTORE CAPITALISM." THE BROADCAST SAID "MOST" RURAL CADRE ARE "GOOD OR RELATIVELY GOOD," BUT IT ALSO WARNED THAT "THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE TWO LINES" IS "BOUND TO BE REFLECTED" IN THE LEADERSHIP GROUPS. AS REASSURANCE THAT ECONOMIC REALITIES ARE NOT BEING NEGLECTED, IT ALSO CLAIMED THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNES AND BRIGADES INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN IS GREATER THAN ELSEWHERE (CANTON CITY SERVICE OCTOBER 23).

5. "CAPITALIST BACKSLIDING" IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IS A PERENNIAL CONCERN OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND ATTACKS AGAINST RESTORATION OF CAPITALISM ARE NOT UNUSUAL IN PROVINCIAL MEDIA.

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NEVERTHELESS, THE RURAL POPULATION HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY UNAFFECTED BY THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIN AND CONFUCIUS AND LEFT TO THEMSELVES, SO TO SPEAK, THE MASSES MAY HAVE DEVELOPED MORE IN THE WAY OF CAPITALIST TENDENCIES THAN THE LEADERSHIP, OR AT LEAST FACTIONS OF IT, FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH. RENEWED PARTY EFFORTS TOWARD RURAL ORGANIZATION UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECT THIS UNEASINESS. EVEN WITH THE PLMP ORGANIZATION IN KWANGTUNG APPARENTLY WELL LAUNCHED, ONLY ABOUT A QUARTER

OF CHINA'S PROVINCES SEEM, BY THAT CRITERION, TO BE IN
A POSITION TO AT LEAST CONSIDER MOVING AHEAD ON OTHER
ASPECTS OF THE PARTY'S RURAL ECONOMIC POLICIES.
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